



**Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment**  
**Desert Communities Empowerment Zone**  
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**"EMPOWERING RESIDENTS-SUSTAINING RURAL COMMUNITIES"**

January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Mr. Rick Daniels  
Salton Sea Authority  
78-401 Highway 111, Suite T  
La Quinta, CA 92253



Dear Mr. Daniels,


Desert Alliance for Community Empowerment (DACE), a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization managing the Desert Communities Empowerment Zone (DCEZ), hereby acknowledges its enthusiastic support of the Salton Sea Authority's locally-developed conceptual plan for the Salton Sea and its surrounding area titled "*Salton Sea Authority Conceptual Plan for Multi-Purpose Project*."

The DCEZ, which encompasses the northern area of the Salton Sea and its surrounding communities, was established in 1999 as initially one of ten federally designate rural empowerment zones. Stretching for over 4,200 square miles along the eastern Riverside County, DCEZ strives to provide its residents and communities with the means, resources, and opportunities to achieve a quality lifestyle that is both self-sufficient and sustainable. DACE aims to achieve its goal by addressing 1) capacity building, 2) community development, 3) economic development, 4) education, 5) health/human services, and 6) housing.

As California's largest body of water, the Salton Sea and its splendor can only be matched by its potential as articulated within the Salton Sea Authority's conceptual plan. The plan will foster ecosystem restoration, regional economic growth, and provide recreational opportunities – all vital components of a quality lifestyle for the residents of the DCEZ. As an adjacent land owner and regional economic development corporation, DACE recognizes the sustained economic benefits the proposed development will bring to an area that for years has remained economically stagnant. In addition, the plan will address the Salton Sea's insidious threat to our region's air quality if any of the sea's lake-bed is exposed. Therefore, the economic and environmental health of the DCEZ depends on and will thus benefit if the Salton Sea Authority's plan comes to fruition.

DACE, having collaborated numerous times with the various agencies and individuals which comprise the Salton Sea Authority, salutes the agency's efforts to revitalize and restore the Salton Sea as well as its surrounding area. As a result - assuming all environmental and community concerns are adequately met – DACE wholeheartedly endorses the Salton Sea Authority's "*Salton Sea Authority Conceptual Plan for Multi-Purpose Project*."

Sincerely,

  
JEFFREY A. HAYS  
Executive Director

**DACE is Equal Opportunity Provider**

*Serving: Desert Center, Colorado River Communities, Mecca, Mesa Verde, North Shore, Oasis, Ripley, Thermal, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.*